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# 2001 Wetlands Reserve Program

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## Customer Focus

Today, a new generation of farmers and ranchers are working to balance food production with wetland conservation. One by one, wetlands are returning to the Idaho agricultural landscape.

The Brown family has owned and operated their Meadows Valley Ranch in Adams County for over 40 years. In 1998, they decided to restore 275 acres of marginal pastureland to its natural and productive wetland environment using WRP.

The project is located along the Little Salmon River, which provides important habitat for many wildlife species including salmon and steelhead.

The project work included plugging drainage ditches which raised the water table and set the stage for the return of plants and animals uniquely adapted to wet conditions. Volunteers have planted hundreds of willows and other native trees along the more than two miles of riverbank and upland areas. Over the next three years, several thousand more will be planted.

The Browns have also built about 8,000 feet of fences to prevent cattle from entering the riparian area.

## Idaho Summary

### Overview

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands. Landowners have the option of enrolling eligible lands through permanent easements, 30-year easements, and restoration cost-share agreements.

Applications received for WRP in Idaho are ranked according to special focus areas that include PL 566 watershed projects, State water quality projects, salmon critical habitat areas, riparian areas, and designated State water quality limited segments. Applications with contributions to threatened/endangered and sensitive animal and plant species also receive greater consideration in the ranking process.

### Accomplishments

Seven permanent easements were enrolled in 2001 covering 1,036 acres in Bonner County. These easements are part of a group project that involves seven landowners with adjoining land who are working together to restore wetland acreage.

Total WRP enrollment: 30 projects covering 6,760 acres.

Idaho currently has applications for projects waiting for funding: Includes 13 permanent easements, projects covering 1,639 acres, 30-year easements projects covering 1,404 acres, and two restoration agreements, two covering 630 acres.

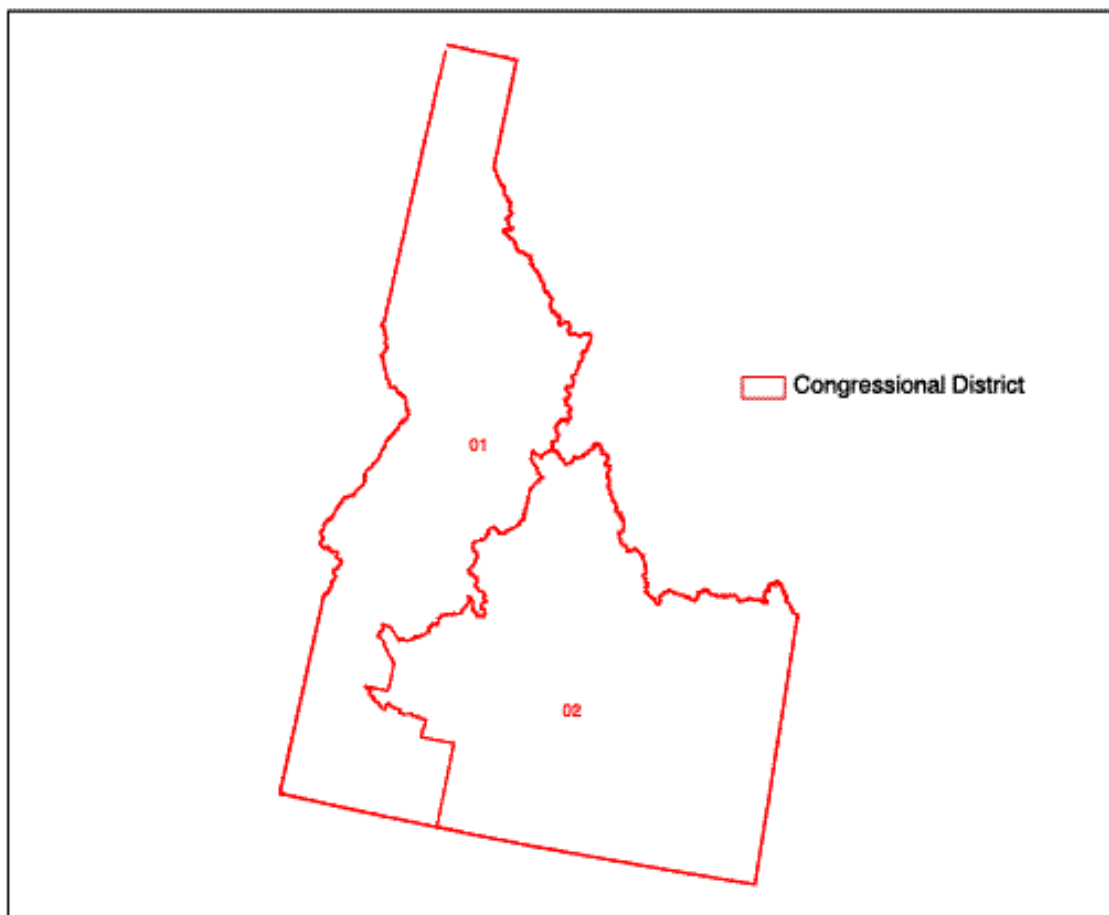
### Program Benefits

WRP projects are restoring vital habitat for birds and animals, filtering sediment from runoff water before it reaches streams and rivers, enhancing riparian health along streams and rivers, and helping to reduce soil erosion and flooding.

### State contact

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## Idaho WRP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



### Idaho Dollars and Contracts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (95-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	1,204,698	7	7,758,429.50	19
District 2	0	0	1,084,834.00	11
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>1,204,698</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8,843,263.50</b>	<b>30</b>

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